A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, January 7. 1709.

IN the Case of Dr. *Sacheverell* now depending before the *House* of *Commons*; The Expectations of the People seem mighty intent, upon what Sentence shall be pass'd upon him personally—— And some gratifie themselves with the Hopes of seeing him punish'd, in some Proportion to the Mischief he has really done, others to the Mischief he design'd to do.

But I leave such to their particular Passions; for my part, tho' I have as much Reason to desire Justice on him as any Body, Yet I am looking another Way, and, *I hope it is the right Way*; I had rather see the Crime punish'd, than the Man; I had rather see the Wound cur'd, than the Hand that gave it, cut off —— And in this I am sure, I pursue the general Good, whether I please private Resentment or no.

Now, that this may be more effectually and seasonably done—— As Heaven has mov'd the *House* of *Commons* to resent it in the Man, so I cannot but most humbly apply my self to them to resent it as a Crime; and tho' it may be look'd upon as arrogant in me to address this Paper to so great an Assembly, yet as their Doors are open to the Grievances of all *Britain*, I doubt not, but their Ears will be also open to every modest Representation, especially such as are visibly pointed at the general Good—As, I hope, this shall appear to be.

Where-

Wherefore, with the humbleſt Submiſſion to the Opinion of the *Britiſh* Parliament, and yet in a chearful Confidence in their Juſtice, Love to their Country, and Zeal for the publick Peace, I take leave to addreſs this Paper to the *Commons* of *Britain* aſſembled at this Time in Parliament, as follows.

The publick Peace of *Britain* (Right Honourable) having by the Wonders of Providence been preſerv'd in the late Glorious Revolution—And the Religious as well as Civil Liberties of this Iſland been reſcued from the ruinous Projects of Popery and Tyranny; it pleas'd GOD to direct the *Commons* of *England* by their Repreſentatives aſſembled in Convention, (in Conjunction with the Nobility) to apply themſelves to ſuch future Eſtabliſhments, as might effectually ſecure us from any ſubſequent Relapſe into the Miſchiefs of the former Reign.

To this Purpoſe they preſented the Crown, upon the *Abdication* of the late King *James*, (*whom Guilt and Fear would not permit to ſhow his Face among us*) to their Glorious Deliverer King *William*, and his Bleſſed Conſort Queen *Mary*, then the next Proteſtant Heir in Succeſſion—and entail'd it on her preſent Majeſty, in Default of Heirs, without any Regard to the other Iſſue of King *James*, then alive, or to be born. By which celebrated Action, I humbly conceive, the Convention did the ſeveral Things following; whether immediately or conſequentially, or both, is not material.

1. They effectually ſecur'd the Crown in the Hands of Proteſtants, having paſs'd that *never-to-be-forgotten* Vote, which was ſent up to the Lords, *Jan.* 22. 1688.—*That it is inconſiſtent with the Conſtitution of this Proteſtant Nation to be govern'd by a Popiſh Prince*; upon which Claim our Religion is now eſtabliſh'd, and our Religious Rights are all founded and ſecur'd.
2. They aſſerted, the Rights of the People of *England*, aſſembled either in Parliament, or Convention, to diſpoſe of the Crown, even in Barr of Hereditary Rights, *that is, in Parliament Stile*, to limit the Succeſſion of the Crown.

By which laſt Article, *as I humbly ſuggeſt*, all the Pretences of our Princes to an inherent Divine Right of Blood—and to an abſolute unconditional Obedience in their Subjects, together with that modern Deluſion of the *Unlawfulneſs of Reſiſtance*, or *Self-Defence*, in Caſes of Tyranny and Oppreſſion, *were entirely ſuppreſs'd*, declar'd againſt, and diſown'd.

Theſe Things, as the Journals of your own Houſe will abundantly inform You, and to which I humbly refer, receiv'd at divers Times, and in various Manners, all poſſible Sanction, both in the ſame aſſembled Convention, when afterwards turn'd into a Parliament, and in the ſeveral ſubſequent Parliaments to this Day, in the ſeveral Acts paſs'd in both Kingdoms, for Recognition of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, for taking the Aſſociation for Security of the Perſons of the King and Queen, for farther Limitation of the Crown, for ſettling the Succeſſion, and at laſt for uniting the two Kingdoms; *to all which Acts I humbly refer*. Every one of them, either expreſly *mentioning*, or neceſſarily *implying*, the Right of the Parliament to limit the Succeſſion of their Princes, and to declare and eſtabliſh Conditions of the Peoples Obedience; and by all which Acts, the abſurd Doctrines of *Paſſive-Obedience* and *Non-Reſiſtance* are by undeniable Conſequences exploded and rejected, as inconſiſtent with the Conſtitution of *Britain*.

Now, *may it pleaſe this Honourable Houſe to conſider, That* tho' as this happy Revolution was eſtabliſh'd over the Bellies of all Gainſayers, and that all Oppoſition to it was cruſh'd in both Kingdoms in its Beginning—yet it involv'd the Nation in a bloody, expenſive, and a tedious War, with the King of *France*, the great Pattern of Tyranny in *Europe*, and to whom all the abdicated Tyrants of Chriſtendom have fled for Succour———And as this terrible War has continu'd now above 20 Years, *with a ſmall Interval of an imperfect Peace*———And as is uſual in like Caſes, has been attended with various

various Successes, especially before the late *Series* of Wonder began, in which GOD has signally bless'd her Majesty with an almost uninterrupted Success; so the great and powerful Enemies of our Peace abroad were not without their secret Friends among us, who, as Traytors in the Bosom of their Native Country, have by all Manner of Artifice, from Time to Time, endeavour'd to weaken the Hands of the establish'd Government, to encourage the Enemy, and on all Occasions assisted them, in open Invasions or secret Treachery, to attempt the Restoration of Slavery and Bondage upon their Country.

It would be too tedious to trouble your Honours with a Recapitulation of the several Attempts of Traytors to the Establishment, in order to ruin the Constitution, thus happily establish'd; such as *French* Armies in *Ireland*, *French* Fleets, *French* Assassinations, and *French* Invasions; in all which it is manifest, great Numbers among us have joyn'd, or have been ready to joyn their Assistance.

The eminent Success, GOD has bless'd us with, *not at all to lessen the Glorious Instruments employ'd*, has hitherto, Blessed be GOD, happily prevented them, and they have seem'd to despair of Success in their open and violent Attempts upon the publick Tranquility——And have therefore with too successful Subtilty apply'd themselves to the no less fatal Method of dividing and disuniting us at home, in which the Emissaries of *France* and *Jacobitism*, have so unhappily prevail'd, That to the Grief of all sincere Lovers of their Country, we see her Majesty's good Subjects daily perplex'd, with hateful Divisions, odious Names of Parties, and a Kind of Strife, inconsistent with the Safety and Peace of the Constitution, as establish'd by the unquestion'd Authority of Parliament——We see this Strife openly encourag'd and supported, and with unusual and lamentable Animosity encreas'd by the Artifice of those, who profess their Enmity to the Revolution, and openly denying her Majesty's Rightful Title to the Crown, founded upon Parliamentary Limitation, dare in the Face of the Government, and while they enjoy its Protection, profess their Adherence to the Claim of a contemptible Pretender.

Others, not so directly, but altogether as fatally, and tending to the same End, with subtle Designs to divide and amuse the People, by Preaching, Writing, and Printing, endeavour to revive the said absurd and exploded Doctrines of *Non-Resistance* and absolute *uncondition'd Obedience*, as Things the People of *England* ought to think themselves oblig'd by—— which tho' in themselves of no Force, yet manifestly tend to unravel the Constitution——to invalidate the Queen's Title to the Crown, and to destroy the Legal Authority of Parliament in the Nation——An eminent Proof of which is now depending before the *House*.

The humble Motion of the Author of this, in Consequence of what is above represented, he begs Leave to offer in the next Paper.

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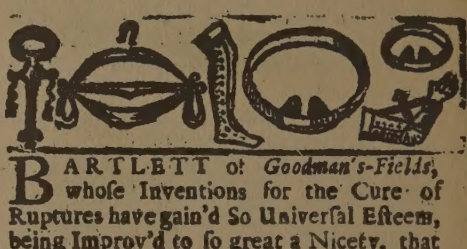

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